

July- WasteWatch

Are Belmont residents recycling and throwing their trash out correctly? Certain items that are no longer useful shouldn't go in the trash barrel, recycling bin or down the drain. These items need to be handled specially, such as household hazardous waste and mercury containing devices.

What is Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) any leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are considered household hazardous waste. Examples include cleaners, oil based paints, pesticides, pool chemicals and fuels.

Why should Belmont residents properly discard HHW?

Properly discarding or recycling these items protects the environment and prevents harm to people, pets and wildlife.

Where can residents dispose of HHW?

Belmont is one of eight communities that belong to the Minuteman Regional Hazardous Products Facility, located in Lexington. Residents must pre-register with the Belmont Health Department to avoid paying a fee at the facility.

When is the facility open?

This facility is open seven Saturdays and one Sunday during the year from April through November, 9:00am until 2:00pm for HHW disposal. The Town of Belmont has made a commitment to protect the environment by making it convenient for residents to dispose of their household hazardous waste by providing multiple collections during the year at no cost. More information about this facility and HHW collection can be found at: <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/dpw/hhhwfacility.cfm>

Where can residents dispose of mercury containing devices?

Thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, and button batteries can be dropped off either at the Minuteman Regional Facility during HHW disposal, or the Belmont Health Department and/or the DPW Office, Monday through Friday, 8:00am until 4:00pm.

Please note that fluorescent bulbs are dropped off at the DPW office (not the Health Dept.) and can also be dropped off at Hillside Gardens.

The Massachusetts Mercury Management Act was signed into law in 2006 and was created to keep mercury out of the trash and wastewater. When products that contain mercury are thrown in the rubbish or placed down the drain, it ends up in the environment through incineration or wastewater treatment plants. Mercury is toxic to humans when it is improperly discarded or unconstrained from the product or container. More information can be found at: <http://www.keepmercuryfromrising.org/home.php>

For more information or suggestion please contact Mary Beth Calnan, Belmont Recycling Coordinator, mcalan@belmont-ma.gov or 617-993-2689.